

(Transcribed from original)

House
224-S. Lee Street
Alexandria, Virginia

HABS No. VA-451

HABS
VA
7-ALEX
68.

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Washington 25, D. C.

House
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Present Owner: Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Sagalyn

Present Occupant and Use: Residence of owner

Description:

This house is notable architecturally in a number of respects. Unlike most houses of town type, it is exposed on front sides. The rear ell is a good example of a flounder type probably preceding the construction of the major unit, but differing in having openings and a pent unit along the north or back side. This section contains a Dutch bake-oven. The side porch with jalousies is an unusually fine detail. As developed the building is in Georgian style with stone trim and a pair of dormers.

At the rear of stand a brick stable (remodeled) and smokehouse believed to date from 1757. At the edge of the property is still to be seen the original sea wall of Aquia stone affording a clue to the orientation of the building before the eastern end of Alexandria was filled in.

Number of stories: 2½ with flounder type ell.

Historical Data:

Year of erection: Ell probably built about 1757

Built for (first owner): George Johnston. Builder: Main unit possibly added by Robert Hanson Harrison.

Architect: Unknown

Notable events and occupants:

George Johnston of Stamp Act Fame purchased the lot on which this house stands, from Henry Fitzhugh in 1757 and "caused to have built" a brick house, a livery or soigon", or smokehouse. Johnston died about 1766 and two years later this property passed to Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, President of the Maryland Senate in settlement of a debt. Jenifer was married to Dr. Craik's daughter. It was later sold back to Johnson's daughter, Sarah and her husband, Robert Hanson Harrison in 1772. It is of interest to note that both Colonel Harrison and George Johnaton, Jr., both served as military secretaries to George Washington.

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The senior Johnston was a brilliant lawyer of the pre-Revolutionary period and a member of the House of Burgesses for Fairfax County. He is credited by same authorities with writing the famous resolutions which Patrick Henry offered on the Stamp Act in 1765. Johnson was an early trustee of Alexandria and maintained an office on the northwest corner of Lee and Prince Sts. Johnson early befriended George Washington and when he died, it was Washington who was elected in his place as trustee.

References: Eleanor Lee Templeman, Fairfax County Heritage Series: "Judge George Johnston, Ghost Writer for Patrick Henry". Alexandria Association, Our Town 1749 - 1865 Likenesses of This Place and Its People Taken from Life, 1956, p. 32. HABI form prepared by T. Russel Jones and Worth Bailey, HABS, National Park Service.

Approved

Dick Sutton

Date

Feb. 16, 1959